

The Declaration of Independence

For homework, read the Declaration of Independence and write answers to the following questions on your own paper.

1. What is the purpose of the Declaration of Independence as stated in the introductory paragraph?
2. What groups did the Continental Congress hope to sway by this document?
3. According to Jefferson, who has the right to create a government? According to Jefferson, what is the purpose of a government? According to Jefferson, what should be done if a government fails to fulfill its purpose?
4. Using your answers in item 3, summarize in your own words Jefferson's philosophy of government. (This philosophy is Jefferson's major premise or assumption in the Declaration of Independence.)
5. Select any five grievances against George III and the English government that Jefferson lists in the Declaration of Independence. Copy the grievance, and state for each one a British law or action which may have prompted that complaint.
6. What legal means of protest did the colonists take to convince the British to change their ways?
7. How did the British respond to these complaints?
8. What conclusion did Jefferson then draw?
9. What sacrifices were the signers willing to make to gain their independence?